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## Allen Bill to Create 'Michigan Maritime' License Plate

*License plate would honor state's heritage and raise money for maritime studies*

LANSING – Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, today introduced a bill to recognize Michigan's rich maritime history through the creation of the 'Michigan Maritime' fund-raising license plate to benefit the Great Lakes Maritime Academy.

"Michigan's history has been entwined with the Great Lakes since the time of fur traders, ore miners and lumber barons," Allen said. "Taking pride in our state's history while showing our support for the Great Lakes Maritime Academy through the voluntary purchase of a Michigan Maritime plate would ensure that Michigan's maritime legacy endures."

The bill would create a new fund-raising license plate, which could be purchased through the local Secretary of State branch office or through its website. The license plate would cost \$35, with a \$25 contribution for the Great Lakes Maritime Academy and \$10 fee for the Secretary of State's office to administer the program.

"As the demand for shipping on the Great Lakes increases, we must have mariners and engineers with the best training and education available to navigate these vessels properly and safely on our waters. Support for the Academy through the purchase of Michigan Maritime plate will go towards meeting that end," Allen said.

The Great Lakes Maritime Academy is one of six maritime academies in the nation and is the county's only freshwater academy. The academy, which trains students to serve as Merchant Marine officers aboard the Great Lakes and ocean ships, is affiliated with Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City.

**Note:** Audio comments from Sen. Allen are available on the Michigan Senate Republican Audiowire online at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire>, or by phone at (517) 373-4000.